

## Mass Intentions for the Week

8/18 Mon 9:00 AM Chris Wear  
By Audrey & Dick Regan  
8/19 Tues 9:00 AM James Householder  
By Pat Elbrecht  
8/20 Wed 9:00 AM Theresa Pickens  
By Family  
8/21 Thurs 9:00 AM Alice Holtzel  
By Carol Jensen  
8/22 Fri 9:00 AM Communion  
8/23 Sat 4:00 PM All Deceased Parishioners  
8/24 Sun 10:30 AM All Deceased Parishioners

### Joint Parish Picnic

Please join us at our joint picnic with St. Paul's

This Sunday August 17th at 2 PM

Oquaga Creek State Park

*Come join us for food, fun & fellowship!*

Bring your own meat, place setting, and a dish to pass (grill & charcoal provided). While there are benches, feel free to bring a chair if needed. We also have the ability to go fishing and the use of the beach for swimming and/or kayaking or canoeing.

### 2025 Catholic Home Mission Appeal

August 23/24, 2025

Our second collection will be for the Catholic home Missions Appeal. Your support of this appeal eases the struggle and assists in forming vibrant faith communities.

Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. Please see flyer in vestibule for additional information.

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

Hurting from an abortion? Experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat, November 14-16, 2025 at the Dominican Retreat & Conference Center in Niskayuna. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. The cost is \$195. Financial assistance is available. For more information or to register contact: Pat Mousaw, 518-222-1160 or Katie Bolibaugh or e-mail: [rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com). For a complete listing of retreat dates and locations contact: 1-877-HOPE-4 ME or visit the Rachel's Vineyard website: [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org). Brochure for more information is also in Vestibule.

### 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: On Fire for God

The Christian journey, though rich in grace and purpose, is not without its trials and challenges. It requires steadfast faith and unwavering commitment, especially when the path is steep and the cost of discipleship is great. But it is precisely in these difficult moments that our calling becomes most deeply revealed and our witness is most powerfully expressed.

As disciples of Christ, we are called to be ablaze with the fire of God, to live with holy courage and unwavering conviction. This divine flame does not consume; it empowers. It enables us to stand firmly for truth and remain faithful in the face of adversity. The sacred fire of God purifies our hearts, strengthens our resolve, and sustains us as we walk the path of righteousness.

This Sunday's readings call us to welcome this holy fire, to embrace the Spirits refining work and become radiant witnesses of Christ's love in a world longing for light and hope.

In the Gospel, Jesus declares, "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! I have come not to bring peace, but division."

These striking words reveal the urgency of His mission, a fire that confronts complacency and awakens hearts to truth, even when that truth causes division.

The fire Jesus speaks of is the Holy Spirit, a purifying flame that dispels darkness and ignites lives with love, justice, and holiness. Yet not all will embrace it. Those who follow Christ must be prepared to face opposition, rejection, and persecution.

The prophet Jeremiah is a powerful example. He spoke truth to power, condemning the corruption and injustice of the wealthy toward the poor. For this, he was thrown into a muddy cistern and left to die. But God was with him. Jeremiah was rescued, lifted from the pit, and vindicated. His story reminds us that standing for truth often comes at a cost, but we are never alone.

The second reading, from the Letter to the Hebrews, exhorts us to run the race set before us with endurance, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, who endured the Cross and its shame for our sake.

Jesus is our model and our strength. So let us choose to live for Him and allow the divine fire to burn within us; purifying, guiding, and empowering us to be courageous witnesses of the Gospel. Let us cling to truth, embody the values of Christ, and remain faithful, even when it is difficult. May we endure in love and hope, trusting always that God is with us, refining us through the fire, and equipping us to reflect His light in a world longing for healing and redemption.

**God bless, Fr. Dr. Ben**

### Pilgrims of Hope Diocesan Jubilee

Sat. Sept. 20, 2025 – 8:30 to @pm

Mt. Mathew's Church - 25 Mountainview Street, Voorheesville, NY 12186

All will benefit from this day of prayer and inspiration as we embark on this time of visionary discernment for our diocese. As Pope Benedict XVI said, we are all "co-responsible for the Church's being and action!"

**There is no cost to attend. However, advance registration is required. Please register by September 10!**

To register go to <https://webapps.rcda.org/ParishFaithFormation/>. For more information please see flyer in vestibule.

### Weekend of August 23 & 24, 2025

First Reading-Isaiah 66:18-21

Second Reading- Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

**Saturday 4:00 PM**

**Celebrant:**

**Lector:**

**Eucharistic Ministers**

**Altar Servers**

Father Ben

Sherry Youngs

Carole Ostrander, Jane Artis, Bill Babbage

### 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel- Luke 13:22-30

**Sunday 10:30AM**

Father Ben

Kathy Saludo

Paula Ciborowski, Josh & Emelinda Gromwall

Ayla Gromwall, Gabriel Harris

Offerings from Aug 2 & 3, 2025: Regular \$2202.00; Evangelist \$35.00; Repairs, \$120.00; Holy Father Pence \$45.00

### Prayer Shawls

We have available prayer shawls for all ages; infant to adult. Please see Faith Formation; ~ Paula for more information.

### Share the Bounty Dinner

August 28, 2025  
4:30 – 6:30 pm.  
All are welcome!!

### St. Paul's Church - Summer Movies Night 2025

The Old Hancock Cinemas/Now the Bridgewater Church  
Aug. 19, 26, & Sept. 9 at 6PM  
Movie – "The Chosen " Season 5  
Movie, popcorn & soda – free!  
All are welcome!!!

### Mass for Grieving Parents

September 15, 2025 at 9:00am  
Prayer cards will be available in the vestibule 9/5 and 9/6  
In the vestibule.

### Rosary Society Group

We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting is Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>.  
We will be having brunch after Mass. All are welcome to attend!

### Virtual Book Club

Featuring: Between Heaven & Mirth  
Thursdays: Sept. 11, 18, 25  
Noon to 1:30PM  
This will be held by Zoom  
Please register with the Faith Formation Office/ Paula by Sept 7, if you would like to attend. Please see flyer in vestibule for more information.

### Diocesan Appeal 2026

The new fiscal year has begun on July 1<sup>st</sup>!  
Your support helps many services we provide.  
For pledges made now; payment in full due by 6/30/26.  
You can spread out your payments for up to 12 months!  
Please apportion your gift to one or more areas of focus: \*SEMINARIAN FORMATION\*CAMPUS MINISTRY\*CATHOLIC CHARITIES\* PARISH OPERATIONAL SUPPORT \* PARISH MISSION SUPPORT \* VOCATIONS\* GENERAL BUDGET SUPPORT  
Our goal for this year is \$19,152.00.  
We prayerfully thank you for all your support!

### August Bulletin Quotes

"We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love!  
We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life" (EV 86).  
Pope Saint John Paul II, Evangelium vitae © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana.  
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### Question of the Week

#### *An Unsettling Truth*

Jesus said, "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!"

Adults: When has your taking a strong stand on a moral issue created division rather than healing in the short term?

Kids: Is it important to do the right thing even if others are angry as a result? Why or why not?

### Annual Diocesan Marriage Jubilee Mass

Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
3PM Liturgy with Reception  
Christ Our Light Catholic Church  
1 Maria Drive, Loudonville, NY

If you are unable to attend and would like a certificate for 40 or more years of marriage please advise the office so we may submit your name for a certificate. For more information please see flyer and signup sheet on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

### Harvest Festival 2025

We have begun planning for the Harvest Festival that will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. Anyone is welcome to join us on August 19 at 6:15 PM to share your thoughts and ideas to help us to have a successful and profitable event.

### Wisdom of the Saints

"God is a spring of living water which flows unceasingly into the hearts of those who pray."

~St. Louis de Montfort

### The Prophetic Path

Learn practical ways to pray, grow in discipleship and spiritual authority, and receive both personal and spiritual growth. Please see flyer in vestibule or call Janine at 607-206-2523 for more information.

**Please pray for the following people, who have requested our prayers:** Gussie Shifflett, Joe LaFave, Ginni Roe, Gabi Bakeman, Kimberlee Roe, Kevin, Michael Bell, Barbara Bennett, Grady Charles Weigand, Daniel Rickard, Mark & Andrea, Kim Sumski, Dorothy Kashuda, Alyson Sabillon, Linda Falk, Debra Barnard, Diane, Bonnie La Voie, Doug Williams, Faith Williams, Don Butler, Debra Patterson, Ed Nicol, Dawn Maruszewski, Carey, Madlyn Sumski, Alex Roberts, Paul J. Hamilton, Sr., Mary Munetz, Jazmiers Moore, Bruce Allen, Kimberly Bosket, David Rivera, Jackie Bargher, Matthew Baxter Darline Smith, Joseph Dermody, Alice Anderson, Sandy Kemp, George Walters Lorraine Keckeisen, Maria LaBar, Patrick, John McCann, Natalie Stone, Marian Heeps, Mary Kolermous, Terri Cristofaro, Liliana, Nancy Daugherty, Mark Moratwe, Sharon Guenther, Kira Cronk, Terry Yackel, Jack Yackel, Jim Mylotte, Alice Walters, Rev. Steve Deckard, Terry Nicolini, Nick Gibson, Andy Woods, Bob Jenks, Jane, Dolores Storzinger, Alexis Spencer, Ines Warlock, Susan Chidester, Bob Oliver, Rose LoCasci, Eugene & Yvonne Cutler, Timothy Bell, Ruth Glaum, Holly North, Dixy Pflug, Celeste Hartman, Aidan Burns, Bill, James Jennings, Marge Suriano, Marlana Keath, Marian Agymang, Frank Holley, Nicholas Gaedeke, Gary Maraia, Rachel Feyh, Marge LaFave, Olivia Ross & family, Joe Maggio, Eric Roll, Barbara Haynes, Renee Joseph, Susan Pondolfino, Charlie Washburn, James Rattrie, Sean Granam, Marge Ramsey, Beverly Pierce, Fran Groshans, Marion Kiselic, a dear friend, Pat Nabinger, James Stanley, Chris Smith, Pat Elbrecht, Bonnie De Salvo, Lori White, Ellen Reuter, Jaxson Beadle, Francis & Alfredine Duguay, Joan Rice, John MacDonald, Rowan DeCocker, Stephanie Soldinger, Bonnie Tabone, Daniel, John Gilmore, Will Sterchak, Donna Khan, Anthony Barber, Jr., Payton Lakin, Joan & Tony Barber, Mathias Mietzelfeld Maggie Hoffman, Marybeth Modinger, Jacqueline Richardson, Celeste Aber, Teri Frallich, Andrea Emilia Bernabey, Bill Babbage, Sarah Pressler, Bobbie August, Chris West, Dawn Cronin, Stephen, Josephine Materazzo, Avery Maggio, Michael and Christopher Doi, Barb & Jerry Patrick, Joan Barnes, John MacDonald, Anne Klopchin, Patricia Houghton

**Please Note: All names will remain on our list and will be prayed for unless our office is notified to remove an individual**